



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Cleanup at Plaquemines Parish facility key to recovery

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are announcing the completion of a voluntary clean up project in Plaquemines Parish. State and federal officials will present the inactive Port Nickel facility of Amax Metals Recovery, Inc., with a certificate of completion on Thursday, Nov. 15 during an 11 a.m. ceremony. The facility is located at 3607 English Turn Road, in Braithwaite.

AMRI, owned by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., participated in the DEQ's voluntary remediation program and EPA's corrective action strategy program to cleanup approximately 215 acres of the 975 acre-site. In this case, the contractors for the company worked to clean up an underground storage tank waste pile area used historically to store fuel and oil.

"The cleanup conducted at AMRI represents a significant accomplishment for such a large scale project that will have far reaching economic impact for this community," said DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment, Wilbert Jordan.

AMRI implemented an accelerated site investigation and closure program consistent with the DEQ's risk evaluation and corrective action program or RECAP and EPA's Land Revitalization Action Agenda. After more than three years of work at the site, the company received the certificate of completion, which acknowledges that the cleanup meets both federal and state programs. By participating in both federal and state programs, this enabled AMRI to complete site investigation activities in a timely manner that is protective for human health and the environment, based on planned future land use.

"This facility never lost focus on its goal to bring this project to fruition," said EPA Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division Deputy Director, William Luthans. "Today's announcement offers encouragement and assurance to potential developers wanting to rejuvenate Plaquemines Parish."

Originally constructed in 1958, AMRI is situated on the Mississippi riverfront. Because of the location it is expected to play a key role in the recovery and revitalization of the area. The site is large enough to support a number of port and industrial uses, and has good rail and highway access. The site once operated a hydrometallurgical manufacturing facility, which ceased operations in March 2000. Freeport McMoRan gained ownership of the facility earlier this year as a result of acquiring the Phelps Dodge Corporation.

For more information about DEQ's voluntary remediation program, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov or www.epa.gov to learn about EPA's Land Revitalization Action Agenda.